

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,416,627 to Wilmoth; claims 4, 6, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilmoth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,054 to Okayasu; claims 10-12 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilmoth in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,054,794 to Laughlin; claims 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,969,860 to Mearns; and claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mearns in view of Laughlin. Claims 5, 13-20, 23-25, 31, and 35-40 stand objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim.

Applicants hereby submit amendments to the claims in which:

claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claims 2, 4, and 5, which have been canceled;

claims 3, 6, and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1;

claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form;

claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form;

claim 27 has been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claims 28, 30, and 31, which have been canceled;

claims 29, 32, and 33 have been amended to depend from claim 27; and

claim 35 has been rewritten in independent form.

The above amendments to the claims reflect the requirements set forth in the Final Office Action and place claims 1, 3, 6, 7-20, 23-25, 27, 29, and 32-40 in a form suitable for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

DATE: December 1, 2003

By: 

David M. Morse  
Reg. No. 50,505

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.  
865 South Figueroa Street  
Twenty-Ninth Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017-2576  
(213) 892-9200